

**Remarks**

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-32 are pending in the application; Claims 9-12 and 17-24 having been amended, and new dependent Claims 29-32 having been added, by way of the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action Claims 9-12 and 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,290,569 to Mizuno et al. (Mizuno), and as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,045,432 to Shibata. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims have overcome the rejections for the following reasons.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 13-16 and 25-28 are allowed.

The present invention is directed to lens grinding machines. Independent Claims 9, 17, and 19 recite the lens grinding machine including an input device configured to input lens shape data of a spectacle frame, and a memory configured to store a plurality of the lens shape data inputted from the input device. Independent Claims 11, 18, and 20 recite the lens grinding machine including input means for inputting lens shape data of a spectacle frame, and storage means for storing a plurality of the lens shape data inputted from the input means.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claims 9, 17, and 19, Mizuno is directed to a lens grinding apparatus. As shown in Figure 8, for example, of Mizuno, a host computer 651 for managing lens processing data is connected to an interface circuit 601 of a control system 600 of a lens grinding apparatus. The interface circuit 601 serves to transmit and receive

data.<sup>1</sup> The host computer 651 may store and manage plural sets of processing data together with identification symbols, in correspondence with lens specification data and target lens configuration data.<sup>2</sup> A data memory 603 of the control system 600 of the lens grinding apparatus stores data that are supplied through the interface circuit 601, lens thickness measurement data, and other data.<sup>3</sup> The data stored in the data memory 603 is read out and used during processing.<sup>4</sup>

Applicants respectfully assert that Mizuno does not teach or render obvious, however, the claimed features of a lens grinding machine including an input device configured to input lens shape data of a spectacle frame, and a memory configured to store a plurality of the lens shape data inputted from the input device. Rather, as discussed above, Mizuno at most states that the host computer 651, which Applicants respectfully assert is external to and separate from the grinding apparatus, stores lens shape data. Applicants further respectfully assert that Mizuno does not state that the data memory 603 stores lens shape data, for example.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed features recited in independent Claims 9, 17, and 19 provide advantages that are not provided by Mizuno. By way of specific non-limiting examples, Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed grinding machine does not require an interface circuit for connection with an external host computer storing lens shape data.

For the above discussed reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 9, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Mizuno be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully assert Mizuno also does not teach or render obvious the claimed features recited in independent Claims 11, 18, and 20 of a lens grinding machine including input means for inputting lens shape data of a spectacle frame, and storage means

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<sup>1</sup> Column 7, lines 61-66.

<sup>2</sup> Column 11, lines 33-36.

<sup>3</sup> From Column 7, line 67 to Column 8, line 2.

<sup>4</sup> Column 9, lines 30-32.

for storing a plurality of the lens shape data inputted from the input means, for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent Claims 9, 17, and 19. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 11, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Mizuno be withdrawn.

Shibata is directed to an eyeglass lens layout input device, and lens grinding apparatus. Applicants respectfully assert that Shibata also does not teach or render obvious, however, the claimed features of a lens grinding machine including an input device configured to input lens shape data of a spectacle frame, and a memory configured to store a plurality of the lens shape data inputted from the input device as recited in independent Claims 9, 17, and 19, or the claimed features of a lens grinding machine including input means for inputting lens shape data of a spectacle frame, and storage means for storing a plurality of the lens shape data inputted from the input means, as recited in independent Claims 11, 18, and 20. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that Shibata does not show or state that the data memory 103 stores lens shape data, for example. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 9, 11, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Shibata be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully assert that the outstanding grounds of rejection of independent Claims 9, 11, and 17-20 have been overcome for the above reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of independent Claims 9, 11, and 17-20.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 10, 12, 21-24, and 29-32 are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of dependent Claims 10, 12, 21-24, and 29-32.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

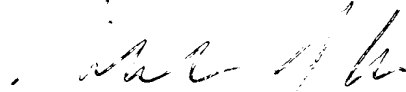
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condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 9-32 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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